

In the Claims:

Please amend the Claims to read as follows (a copy of the amended claims showing the additions and deletions appears at the end for the Examiner's convenience):

3. Extrudates according to claim 1, having a length to diameter ratio of between 1 and 3.

4. Extrudates according to claim 1, wherein the total pore volume as determined by mercury porosimetry is between 0.5 and 0.75 ml/g.

5. Extrudates according to claim 1, wherein the BET surface area is at least 75 m²/g.

6. Extrudates according to claim 1, wherein the attrition in accordance with ASTM D4058-87 is less than 5 wt.%, preferably less than 3 wt.%.

7. Catalyst, comprising at least one catalytically active material supported on an extrudate according to claim 1.

9. Use of an extrudate according to claim 1 in a chemical reaction.

Please add the following new claims 10 - 19:

10. Extrudates according to claim 2, having a length to diameter ratio of between 1 and 3.

11. Extrudates according to claim 10, wherein:

the total pore volume as determined by mercury porosimetry is between 0.5 and 0.75 ml/g;

the BET surface area is at least 75 m²/g; and

the attrition in accordance with ASTM D4058-87 is less than 5 wt.%, preferably less than 3 wt.%.

12. Catalyst, comprising at least one catalytically active material supported on an extrudate according to claim 2.

13. Catalyst, comprising at least one catalytically active material supported on an extrudate according to claim 3.

14. Catalyst, comprising at least one catalytically active material supported on an extrudate according to claim 4.

15. Catalyst, comprising at least one catalytically active material supported on an extrudate according to claim 5.

16. Catalyst, comprising at least one catalytically active material supported on an extrudate according to claim 6.

17. Use of an extrudate according to claim 11 in a chemical reaction.

18. Use of a catalyst according to claim 7 in a chemical reaction.

19. Use of a catalyst according to claim 8 in a chemical reaction.

REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment puts the claims into proper form for examination. Note that claims 3-7 and 9 have been amended; new claims 10-19 have been added; and claims 1, 2, and 8 remain